

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 /071 W
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R 231230Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9713

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 13157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, FR

SUBJECT: STATUS OF FRANCO/PRG RELATIONS AND GOF
PROTECTION OF U.S. INTERESTS

REF: PARIS 12675

1. QUAI ACTING DIRECTOR FOR ASIA BOLLE TOLD EMBOFF
MAY 22 THAT PHAM VAN BA REMAINS THE HEAD OF THE PRG
PERMANENT MISSION, BUT HE HAS HAD HIS DEPUTY, LE KY VAN
ASSUME THE TITLE OF PRG CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. BOLLE
THOUGHT THAT BA WOULD SOON GO TO SAIGON AND THEN PRG
WOULD REQUEST AGREEMENT FOR BA OR SOMEONE ELSE. MICHEL
HURIET, SENT OUT AS CHIEF OF THE GOF LIAISON MISSION
TO THE PRG, HAS BEEN FORMALLY ACCEPTED BY THE PRG AS
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. HURIET IS STILL IN HANOI, AND BOLLE
DID NOT KNOW WHEN HE MIGHT GO TO SAIGON. FRENCH WISH
TO HAVE AMBASSADOR MERILLON LEAVE BEFORE HURIET'S
ARRIVAL OR SHORTLY AFTER. THEY WISH TO HAVE MERILLON
LEAVE "DIRECTLY" -- NOT VIA HANOI -- BY A FRENCH
MILITARY PLANE NOW IN VIENTIANE. HOWEVER IF PRG DOES
NOT AGREE AND ONLY WAY IS VIA HANOI, GOF WILL RELUCTANT-
LY ACQUIESCE. BOLLE THOUGHT THESE MOVES WOULD BE
WORKED OUT SOON, BUT HE COULD NOT SAY WHEN.

2. BOLLE REPEATED THAT GOF WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET
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PRG CONCURRENCE FOR PROTECTION OF U.S. INTERESTS UNTIL

HURIET IS IN PLACE. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY IN SAIGON WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO GET INFORMATION ON AMERICANS IN VIETNAM (AND ON BODIES OF TWO MARINES), IT IS TOO SOON TO EXPECT FRENCH EMBASSY TO PROVIDE AN ACCOUNT OF U.S. PROPERTY, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, WHEREABOUTS OF VIETNAMESE RELATIVES OF U.S. CITIZENS, OR WHEREABOUTS OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS WHO FORMERLY WORKED FOR U.S. FIRMS. BOLLE EMPHASIZED THE DIFFICULTIES OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN CONTACTING PRG REPS, IN CIRCULATING AND COMMUNICATING. BOLLE ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS STILL NO COMMUNICATION LINK WITH FRENCH VICE CONSUL IN DANANG. BOLLE UNDERSTOOD THE FRUSTRATIONS WHICH MANY FEEL BECAUSE OF THE INABILITY TO GET INFORMATION CONCERNING SVN; HE FREQUENTLY HAD TO TELL FRENCH CABINET MINISTERS AND DEPUTIES THAT THE SITUATION IN SAIGON WAS STILL SO FAR FROM NORMAL THAT ONE COULD NOT YET EXPECT INFORMATION CONCERNING, FOR EXAMPLE, WHEREABOUTS OF FRENCH CITIZENS.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT GOF IS BEING AS COOPERATIVE AS IT CAN BE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH INFORMATION UNTIL FRANCE IS ABLE OFFICIALLY TO REPRESENT U.S. INTERESTS, AND EVEN THEN WORKLOAD AND OTHER PROBLEMS WILL LIMIT FRENCH CAPABILITIES.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS13157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750182-0281
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750523/aaaaauic.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 12675
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF FRANCO/PRG RELATIONS AND GOF PROTECTION OF U.S. INTERESTS
TAGS: PFOR, US, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006